

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING



Commission Meeting
Tuesday, July 19, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Department of Economic Security
Director's Office Conference Room
1717 West Jefferson Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Clarence H. Carter, (Co-Chair) Department of Economic Security (DES); Michael Traylor, (Co-Chair) Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH); Brad Bridwell (Alternate), Arizona Department of Veteran Services (ADVS); Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM); Victor Hudenko, Catholic Charities Community Services, Inc.; David Sherman, The Salvation Army, White Mountain Outpost; Dona Markley (Alternate), Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC); Jenifer Thornton, City of Sierra Vista and Brian Spicker, Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW).

Commissioners Absent:

Charles Ryan, Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC); Colonel Joey Strickland, Arizona Department of Veteran's Services (ADVS); Cassandra Larsen, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GCYF); Mary Murphy (Alternate) Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GCYF), Will Humble, Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS), Victoria Navarro, (Alternate), Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS); Robert Halliday, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Terri Leveton, Phoenix Rescue Mission.

Staff Present:

Karia Basta, Arizona Department of Housing, (ADOH); Melanie Starns, Judith Fritsch, Patricia Talcott and Donna Bleyle (DES).

Guests:

Travis Schulte and Sean Price, Arizona Department of Veteran Services (ADVS) and Patti Caldwell, New Beginnings for Women & Children.

Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Clarence Carter called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Co-Chair Carter welcomed everyone to DES. Co-Chair Traylor arrived late to the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

Co-Chair Carter called for approval of the Tuesday, May 17, 2011 meeting minutes, Commissioner Sherman moved to approve the minutes and seconded by Brad Bridwell (Alternate). The motion passed with no changes and approved by commissioners in attendance. Commissioner Jennifer Thornton abstained as she was not in attendance at the May 17, 2011 meeting.

Co-Chair Carter asked Donna Bleyle if there was information she would be presenting regarding the Point-In-Time Presentation at the last meeting. Donna stated Initiative 4 on Housing Inventory had not yet been presented and would be presented today.

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Co-Chair Carter stated before moving on to the agenda, one of the ACHH members would be assuming new responsibilities and asked Brad Bridwell to take an opportunity to share what he would be doing. Brad stated he had officially resigned from the Arizona Department of Veteran Services and transitioning back into special needs housing development for veterans with Cantwell-Anderson/Cloudbreak, who is the developer of Victory Place. They are currently completing 75 units at 9th and Jones and he also would be covering Nevada. Co-Chair Carter thanked Brad for his work with the Veterans and with his work on the ACHH.

INITIATIVE 6 / Arizona Business plan to end Homelessness

Donna Bleytle outlined in a PowerPoint presentation the objectives for Initiative 6 which includes establishing organization structure to engage community, encourage collaborations, emphasizing shared information and communication at all levels, and utilizing national and local best practices to inform planning process.

Action Steps included Review and Update of the 2004 Arizona Plan, to Establish Leadership and Organization Structure to Engage Local Communities in Plan Implementation. Background on Federal, State and Department of Veteran Services Plans to End Homelessness including goals and strategies was presented.

Donna stated the first Action Item is to identify and prioritize specific, attainable goals with targeted timetables. Background on Best Practices and Statistics included data on Arizona Homelessness based on the January 2011 PIT and National Examples of Organization Best Practices from Utah, who received “Outstanding Service Award at 2011 NAEH Conference and Massachusetts.

Co-Chair Carter asked Donna if the State Plan needs to flow naturally from the Federal Plan and if there is synergy and alignment between the State Plan on Ending Homelessness and the Federal Plan on Ending Homelessness.

Co-Chair Traylor stated they wanted to discuss the goals and hopefully end up reviewing and approving the goals at this meeting. He stated that the commission shouldn’t commit to goals that could not realistically be accomplished and that they should align as much as possible with the Federal goals. Co-Chair Carter stated having worked at the federal, state and local level and wanting as much synergy and alignment as possible, we really need to be defining the problem in Arizona and determining what’s important here in Arizona in order to align to the degree that we can. Commissioner Newsome stated Arizona needs to provide the capacity but needs to focus on the root causes to break the cycle. Co-Chair Carter stated partnership and collaboration is also a goal and that they needed a whole different mindset and the whole community to solve the problem. Co-Chair Carter asked “Do we understand the federal, state and local policy as it impacts our objective of reducing homelessness in Arizona?” Co-Chair Carter stated a State goal was to “understand and influence” federal, state and local policy. After much discussion of the goals and objectives, best practices, and creative ideas on the use of resources and which goals to focus on, Co-Chair Traylor recommended the 7 goals could be condensed in order to keep it simple. Co-Chair Carter asked if staff could rework the goals and reduce the amount to 5 instead of the 7. Co-Chair Traylor interjected and

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suggested the 5 goals should be the first three goals on ending homelessness, the goal to establish standards measurement and data collection and the fifth goal to move from homeless management to homeless prevention. Co-Chair Carter stated it all felt right and asked for a motion, the motion was made by Co-Chair Traylor and passed by voice vote. The Arizona Plan to end Homelessness Goals will be to:

- End chronic homelessness by 2016
- Prevent and end veteran homelessness by 2015
- Continue work to prevent and end homelessness for families, youth and children by 2021
- Develop measurement standards, data collection and accurate reporting systems to track progress towards goals
- Move the current homeless management system towards a homeless prevention system

INITIATIVE 4 / Develop and maintain statewide inventory of housing

Karia Basta stated the Initiative 4 workgroup had made a decision and had decided to contract with SocialServe.com to develop a statewide database of housing inventory. It will be a searchable database which will be available to anyone for housing inventory information in the area. The scope of work is being drafted and the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH) who would provide the funding for the database. The agreement should be signed within 6 months and would be up and running in a year.

Announcements

Commissioner Newsom stated the ACEH Conference would be held at the Black Canyon Conference Center on October 17-18, 2011 and the Planning Committee is currently accepting nominations for award categories. Commissioner Thornton stated they are utilizing and helping seniors with the Income Tax Credit and also stated they recently helped out with the great need of temporary housing with the fire in Sierra Vista.

Future Agenda Items

Co-Chair Traylor requested agenda items for the Tuesday, September 20, 2011 meeting.

Call to the Public

Brad Bridwell re-introduced Sean Price and Travis Shulte to the commission members.

Adjourn

Co-Chair Carter called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sherman made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner (Alternate) Bridwell. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.